

BALA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1968

1/1/69



To The Chairman and Members of the Bala Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year ended December, 31st. 1968.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 16,00 (70 more than in 1967).

There were 34 live births (23 in 1967) giving a live birth rate of 21.3 per 1,000 population (15 in 1967). No stillbirth occurred. Two infants died during the first month of life.

34 persons from the Urban area died during 1968. 21 of these deaths were due to heart disease and atrokes; 4 were due to cancer.

No new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified during the year and no death occurred from the disease.

The report is generally a very satisfactory one.

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector, the Clerk and all the other Council Officials for their help during the year.

Finally I wish to thank all the Council Members for their continued support and encouragement.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

H. FRANCIS,

District Medical Officer of Health.

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SECTION A.GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Bala district	-	663 acres.
Rateable Value	-	£50,664.
Population (Registrar General's figures)	-	1,600
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	190
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year.	-	570

VITAL STATISTICS

## Comparability factors

Births ... ..	1.23
Deaths ... ..	0.89

BIRTHSLIVE BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	18	16
Legitimate ... ..	16	16
Illegitimate ... ..	2	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 21.3

1967 figures 15.0

Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population) 1.25

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	Nil	Nil

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population - Nil

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total live and Still Births - Nil

<u>TOTAL BIRTHS</u> (Live & Still)	-	34	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Live	-		18	16
Still	-		-	-

DEATHSDEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	-	2
Legitimate ... ..	-	2
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births - 59

1967 figures - Nil

Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births) - 62.5

Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births) - Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	-	2
Legitimate ... ..	-	2
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total ... ..	-	1
Legitimate .. ...	-	1
Illegitimate ... ..	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate - 59

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate - 28.5

Perinatal Mortality Rate - 28.5

MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) - Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000

Live Still Births - Nil

1967 figures - Nil

DEATHS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total number ... ..	15	19
Rate per 1,000 population -	21.3	
1967 figures -	15.7	

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total number ... .. - 4 3 1

Rate per 1,000 population - 2.5

1967 figures - 3.26

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total number ... .. - Nil

Rate per 1,000 population - Nil

1967 figures - Nil

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority

One Medical Officer of Health.

One Public Health Inspector.

(2) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examination of water and examination of milk at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

(3) Ambulance Facilities

2 Full time ambulance stationed at the Hafan, Bala.

(4) Infant Welfare Clinics

Held every other Thursday at the Hafan, Bala.

(5) Ante Natal Clinics

Held every second Wednesday in the month at the Hafan, Bala.

(6) Orthopaedic Clinic

Held at Plasynidr, Bala on the 4th Thursday in each month.

(7) Tuberculosis Clinic

Held at Plasynidr at 10.30 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month.



(8) Immunisation

Arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Carried out at Infant Welfare centres and by General Practitioners in their surgeries.

(9) Hospitals

There is no hospital in the Urban area.

(10) Infectious Diseases

Total number of Infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year :- NIL

Scarlet Fever.  
Bacillary Dysentery.  
Whooping Cough.  
Measles.  
Infantile Paralysis.  
Pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES

Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u>	- nil
	Males - nil	Females - nil
Non-Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u>	- nil
	Males - nil	Females - nil
Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u>	- nil
	Males - nil	Females - nil
Non-Pulmonary	<u>TOTAL</u>	- nil
	Males - nil	Females - nil

# TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1968 in age groups

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35								
45								
55								
65								
75								
TOTAL								

# CAUSES OF DEATH 1968

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....		
Other Tuberculosis, Incl. Late effects.....		
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .....		
Malignant Neoplasm -- Stomach .....		
" " -- Lung, Bronchus .....		
" " -- Breast .....		
" " -- Uterus .....		
Leukaemia .....		
Other Malignant Neoplasma, etc.....	3	1
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasma .....		
Diabetes Mellitus.....	"	1
Other Endocrine Etc Diseases .....		
Other diseases of Nervous System, Etc. ....		
Mental Disorders .....		
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease .....		
Hypertensive Disease .....		
Ischaemic Heart Diseases .....	6	4
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	2	5
Cerebrovascular Disease .....	3	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....		
Influenza .....		
Pneumonia .....		1
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....		
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....		
Peptic Ulcer .....		1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia .....		
Cirrhosis of Liver .....		
Other Diseases of Digestive System .....		
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....		
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....		
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .....		1
Other Complications of Pregnancy etc.....		
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System .....		
Congenital Anomalies .....		1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc. ....		
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality .....		1
Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions .....		
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....		
All Other Accidents .....	1	
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries .....		1
	15	19

## FOOD HYGIENE

Premises were visited and advice given to food handlers.

## No. of Prosecutions

None



1. HOUSING(a) Council Building

No new Council dwellings were built during the year but preliminary work continued in respect of the proposed erection of 12 flats at Blaenddol being the 3rd stage of development at this site.

The total number of Council-owned houses at 31st. December 1968 therefore remained at 202, and the following table shows the number and types in the various estates:

SITE	NUMBER OF DWELLINGS			TOTAL
	4 B'R's	3 B'R's	2 B'R's	
MAESYGERDDI		10		10
MAESYBRONYDD	12	18		30
BRO ERYL	12	52		64
HAFAN	4	42		46
FFORDD-Y-GERDDI		6	12 (Bungalows)	18
GREEN		2		2
BLAENDDOL		32		32
TOTAL	28	162	12	202

(b) Private Building

One new private dwelling was built during 1968, and at the end of the year 2 others were under construction.

The following table shows the numbers of Private and Council dwellings completed since 1959.

YEAR	COUNCIL HOUSES COMPLETED	PRIVATELY BUILT HOUSES COMPLETED
1959	NIL	NIL
1960	"	"
1961	"	"
1962	"	"
1963	18	"
1964	NIL	4
1965	"	NIL
1966	18	4
1967	14	NIL
1968	NIL	3
TOTALS	50	9

(c) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

1. STANDARD

	<u>OWNER/OCCUPIERS</u>		<u>TENANTED</u>	
	<u>5 POINTS</u>	<u>3 POINTS</u>	<u>5 POINTS</u>	<u>3 POINTS</u>
No. of Applications received	2			
" " " approved	2			
" " " refused	Nil			
" dwellings improved	2			
AMOUNT PAID IN GRANTS	£293.16. 7			
AVERAGE GRANT PER HOUSE	£146.18. 0			

(a)	FIXED BATH	1
(b)	SHOWER	-
(c)	WASHBASINS	2
(d)	HOT WATER SUPPLY	2
(e)	WATER CLOSET	2
(f)	FOOD STORE	2

Since 1961 when the Council first approved an application for a Standard Grant, up to the end of 1968, 25 applications for such grants have been approved and a total amount of £2435 have been paid in grants.

2. DISCRETIONARY

There were no applications for Discretionary Grants during 1968.

(d) RENT ACT 1957 - CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year.

(e) REPAIR, HOUSING & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Defects of disrepair were remedied in 8 houses, by the owners, following informal action, 3 vacant unfit dwellings at Blaenddol owned by the Council were demolished.

A Closing Order was made by the Council in regard to 1 unoccupied privately owned house.

(f) CHANGES IN THE STOCK OF DWELLINGS

During 1968 there was a gain of two dwellings resulting from conversion of properties and a loss of one dwelling through a change from housing to other use.



## 2. RODENT CONTROL

The following particulars form the Annual Report on Rats and Mice for the year ended 31st. December, 1968, submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

### (a) PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

1. No. of properties in district

774

3

2. (a) Total no. of properties inspected following notification

24

1

(b) No. infested by (1) Rats  
(2) Mice

9

1

15

-

3. (a) Total No. of Properties inspected for Rat and/or Mice for reasons other than notification.

6

-

(b) No. infested by (1) Rats

2

-

(2) Mice

-

-

The figures for 1968 show a decrease in the number of complaints received and in the number of cases of infestation found, compared with the return for the previous year.

During September and October a particularly heavy infestation of rats was evident at the Council's Refuse Tip.

Visits for the laying of poison had to be carried out every two or three days, and the infestation persisted for about 6 weeks before there was a marked falling-off in "take".

"Permanent baiting points" are inspected every week in order that any reinvasion becomes apparent as soon as it occurs.

(b) SURFACE WATER SEWERS. During December the town's surface water sewers were inspected and bait laid at various manholes in order to find out the degree, if any, of infestation with rats.

No apparent "Takes" were evident thus suggesting that the lengths tested were free of any infestation.

### 3. OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following tables and particulars provide information concerning the administration and enforcement of the Act and Regulations in the Bala Urban District during the year 1968.

TABLE A  
REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of Registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Offices	NIL	8	4
Retail Shops	4	25	17
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	-	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	9	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	4	44	32

TABLE B

NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS (INCLUDING GENERAL INSPECTIONS) TO REGISTERED PREMISES

64

TABLE C

ANALYSIS BY WORKPLACE OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES AT END OF YEAR.

Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
(1)	(2)
Offices	33
Retail shops	71
Wholesale departments, warehouses	4
Catering establishments open to the public	53
Canteens	-
Fuel storage depots	1
Total	162
Total Males	72
Total Females	90



# CONTRAVENTIONS FOUND & REMEDIED

The following table gives particulars of the defects found upon inspection and the number remedied, classified according to type of workplace.

	OFFICES		RETAIL SHOPS		CATER, ESTAB		W/SATS DEPTS/ W/HSEs		TOTALS	
	FOUND	REMEDIED	FOUND	REMEDIED	FOUND	REMEDIED	FOUND	REMEDIED	FOUND	REMEDIED
CLEANLINESS					1	1	1	2	1	
OVERCROWDING										
TEMPERATURE	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	7	6	
VENTILATION			1					1		
LIGHTING										
SAN. ACCOMMODATION			1		2			3		
WASHING FACILITIES	1	1	2	2				3	5	
ACCOM. FOR CLOTHING					2			2		
SEATING										
FLOORS & STAIR/CS ETC			3	2	2		1	6	2	
DANGEROUS MACHINERY										
HEAVY WORK										
FIRST AID	1	1	5	5	4	1	1	11	7	
INFORMATION FOR EMPLOYEES	2	2	5	3	3	1	1	11	6	
TOTALS	5	5	20	15	16	5	5	46	25	

BALA U.D.C. U.S.S.R.P. ACT 1963

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CONTRAVENTIONS FOUND & REMEDIED



ACCIDENTS.

No accident was reported in the year under review.

4. FOOD (A) MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<u>CATTLE</u> <u>EXCLUDING</u> <u>COWS</u>	<u>COWS</u>	<u>CALVES</u>	<u>SHEEP</u> <u>AND</u> <u>LAMBS</u>	<u>PIGS</u>
Number killed	120	6	17	224	161
Number <u>Not</u> inspected			NIL		

All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	3	10	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	37	4	-	276	6

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned				NIL	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	1

Cysticerci

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	1
Generalised and totally condemned	-

The principal cause of condemnation of organs was fascioliasis, being infestation of both cattle and sheep livers with the liver fluke, together with other parasitic conditions.

The reasons for rejection in the case of the 10 sheep and lamb carcasses were emaciation and the effects of injury, and the 3 calves were rejected on account of Pyaemia and Septicaemia.

(B) UN SOUND FOOD SURRENDERED OR CONDEMNED

	<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
1. Meat at slaughterhouses		18	48
2. Meat at wholesale premises		N O N E	
3. Meat at retail shops			22
4. Cooked meat and meat products			12
5. Canned meats			18
6. Other canned foods			NONE
7. Fish (fresh)			"
8. Fruit and vegetables (fresh)		4	22
9. Other foods		N O N E	
		23	10

Unsound food stuffs, mainly canned, and excepting unfit meat, were disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

FOOD HYGIENE(a) Food Hygiene Regulations

Food premises were inspected from time to time and forthwith upon complaint.

List of Food Premises in the District:

Bakahouses	2
School Canteens	2
Cafes	9
Public Houses & Hotels	5
Ice Cream Premises	12
Butchers	3
Retail Shops	12
Slaughterhouses	1
Fried-Fish shops	3

Defects and shortcomings in food premises generally included the following matters: absence of first aid materials, defective structure, defective decoration, faulty ventilation, lack of cleanliness, chipped crockery, outdoor clothing kept in food rooms etc.

Faults and deficiencies at the 2 school canteens were brought to the attention of the Education Authority. A new kitchen and canteen building are to be built at the Primary School to replace the existing one which, although excellently maintained, is structurally unsatisfactory.

At hotels improvements included the following matters: unsatisfactory condition of beer cellars, drainage of floors, defective decoration, improvement to lighting, ventilation and the screening of sanitary accommodation.

During the year many shops were altered structurally, and advice regarding various matters was given at plan stage in order to avoid possible contravention of Regulations when work was completed. There is a trend for shop fronts to be without air-inlets and the attention of occupiers of food premises and that of the builders is drawn to the need for adequate provision for ventilation.

(b) Foreign matter in Food

During the year only one complaint was received in this respect.

In January a person brought to the office a meat pie which was found to have mould under the 'gelatine holes' in the pastry case. The pie had been bought at a shop in the town.

The manufacturers of the pie were immediately notified and it was agreed that the remaining pies in stock at the shop be withheld from sale.

The pie was submitted for examination at the Public Health Laboratory at Conway and the report stated that apart from a single colony of mould under the pastry, it was Bacteriologically satisfactory, and did not contain any of the organisms usually associated with food poisoning.

The manufacturers examined the wrapper of the pie under complaint and informed me that the code showed the date of manufacture was 15 days before the date of purchase.

The investigation indicated that this particular pie had been kept in the shop for far too long a time. Pies should be sold preferably on the same day as received but never after 48 hours from the day of delivery, and should be stored under cool conditions.

The retailer concerned was advised to adopt his own system of coding to ensure proper stock rotation as a measure in preventing this kind of thing happening again.

Copies of Practice Notes produced by the Association of Public Health Inspectors in consultation with the Sausage and Meat Pie Manufacturers' Association being guidance on the retailing of these foods were distributed to the shops in the town.



## 5. Water Supply

### (a) Bacteriological Quality

10 samples of the town's water supply were submitted for Bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

Five of these were found to be unsatisfactory and the reports were forwarded to the Merioneth Water Board.

In upland surface waters particularly, contamination from sheep or rabbits in the neighbourhood is by no means uncommon, especially following prolonged rainfall, and reservoirs are often contaminated by birds. However, the possibility of contamination of human origin must always be borne in mind and it was re-assuring to learn that the new treatment house at Llidiardau had been completed, and the equipment ordered for the purpose of continuous chlorination of the town's supply.

### (b) Chemical Examination

Samples of the main water supply were submitted to the Public Analysts Laboratory at Chester for examination as to lead content.

One sample was found to contain a fairly high percentage of lead and a notice was inserted in the press advising householders to replace lead pipes with copper ones and to run off the water first thing in the morning so as to dispose of the quantity that had remained stagnant in the pipes overnight.

### (c) Suspended Matter

Complaints of the presence of sediment in the water supply were also forwarded to the Water Board. This is undoubtedly a mixture of peat from the lake and iron rust from the mains, and new screens were provided at the Rhyduchaf reservoir.

## 6. Refuse Collection

### Paper Sack System of Storage and Collection

This method of refuse storage and collection was introduced at the 28 Council dwellings at Fforddygerddi and Maesygerddi, also some private householders bought sack holders, the paper sacks themselves being provided free of charge by the Council.

This method of refuse storage is undoubtedly an improvement upon the traditional dust bin and is well liked by the occupiers of the dwellings and also the refuse collectors whose work is made easier and cleaner by this system.

It is hoped that it will be possible to gradually extend this system so that eventually all properties both Council owned and privately owned, will have their present assorted forms of containers replaced by the cleaner and easier to handle paper sacks.

This system has been adopted also for the reception of waste and litter at lay-bys and other locations, and apart to being more presentable in appearance, they are hygienically more acceptable than the larger open-top containers previously used.

## 7. Caravan Sites

No new licence was granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

The only licenced site within the Urban area is in respect of land at Loch Cafe, the number of caravans there being restricted to 3.

## 8. Factories Act 1961

The number of factories on the Register at the end of the year remained at 13.

One notice had to be served drawing attention and remedial work in respect of sanitary accommodation and lack of cleanliness and these defects were attended to.



## LEGISLATION 1968

### STATUTES

Rent Act 1968.  
Trade Descriptions Act 1968.  
Countryside Act 1968.  
Health Services & Public Health Act 1968.  
Caravan Sites Act 1968.  
Clean Air Act 1968.  
Medicines Act 1968.

### CIRCULARS

#### Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959.  
Approved Chemical Agents.  
Fish and Meat spreadable Products Regulations 1968  
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959:  
Approved Chemical Agents.  
Skinned Milk with Non-Milk Fat (Amendment) Regulations 1968.  
Brucellosis (Accredited Herds) Scheme.

#### Department of Health and Social Security.

Dogs in Food Shops, Restaurant and other Food Premises.  
Health Services and Public Health Act 1968: Part III  
Notifiable Diseases and Food Poisoning. The Public  
Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1968.

#### Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Metric Units, Water, Sewage and Related Subjects.  
Clean Air (Measurement of Grit and Dust) Regulations 1968.  
Rent Act 1968.  
Public Health Act, 1961: Building Regulations. The  
Agreement Board.  
Oil Pollution of Beaches.  
Clean Air Act, Housing Act 1964: Designation of direct  
acting electric space heaters.  
Countryside Act 1968.  
Clean Air Act 1956: Housing Act 1964.  
Caravan Sites Act 1968.  
Countryside Act 1968.  
Noise from Concrete Breakers.  
Industrial Effluents.  
Clean Air Act 1968.

